

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An Internet information retrieval method, comprising the steps of:

selecting desired sites to be searched by one or more users;

monitoring the desired sites to identify changes in content over time; and

reporting the changes in content to said one or more users when desired criteria are met.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said desired sites relate to a common subject.
3. The method of Claim 1 wherein said desired sites relate to the energy and utilities industry.
4. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of displaying an abstract of the desired sites accessed by said one or more user.
5. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of tracking the desired sites accessed by said one or more users.
6. The method of Claim 1 wherein the text of the desired sites is stored in a database.
7. An Internet information retrieval method, comprising the steps of:

selecting desired sites to be searched by one or more users;

accessing one or more of the desired sites in response to a user-initiated query;

monitoring the desired sites to identify changes in content;

evaluating the changes in content to one or more of the desired sites; and

reporting the changes in content to said one or more users when desired criteria are met.

8. The method of Claim 7 further comprising the step of organizing the desired sites accessed by said one or more users in a manner selected by said one or more users.

9. An Internet information retrieval apparatus comprising:

a retrieval tool for submitting queries;

a database containing a plurality of Internet web sites; and

a notifier tool for monitoring changes in the content of one or more of said plurality of web sites.

10. The apparatus of Claim 9 wherein said database comprises current and historical web sites.

11. The apparatus of Claim 9 further comprising a display tool for displaying one or more of said plurality of Internet web sites.

12. The apparatus of Claim 9 further comprising information sharing tools for posting and exchanging information.